

serve on their governing boards. The Metropolitan Council has consisted of governor-appointed members since 1967 and has never had elected officials serve as members. In 1973, the Metropolitan Council was designated the MPO by the governor to meet the new federal requirement, because it was already serving the purpose of an MPO before they were federally required—to ensure the coordination of land use and transportation planning. In 1974, the state legislature also designated the Metropolitan Council as MPO in Minnesota state statute. The Metropolitan Council has properly and effectively served this function for 45 years, and amendment H.R. 4 would rescind this MPO model.

In 1974, the Minnesota State Legislature also created the TAB to align more closely with federal MPO requirements and guide the Metropolitan Council's transportation funding decisions. Elected officials play a powerful role in spending federal transportation money through the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB). Today, the 34-member TAB consists of citizens and representatives of municipalities and counties, in fact, 18 of 34 members are elected officials. The TAB allocates the MPO's federal funds, and the Metropolitan Council's powers are limited to either concurrence or returning the decisions to TAB for reconsideration.

The U.S. Department of Transportation has grandfathered the Metropolitan Council's unique governance structure, as allowed under current law, for over 25 years. The Federal Transit Administration and the Federal Highway Administration have also recently reaffirmed the Metropolitan Council's status.

I reiterate my request that the Senate exclude this damaging MPO provision from the Senate FAA reauthorization bill. Eliminating the Metropolitan Council's MPO status would trigger a lengthy redesignation process that would bring uncertainty about federally funded transportation projects in the Twin Cities, and circumvent a long-standing and productive process at a time when transportation investment is critical to our region.

Thank you for your consideration.

MARK DAYTON,  
*Governor.*

[From Star Tribune, Apr. 26, 2018]

U.S. HOUSE APPROVES MEASURE TAKING AIM  
AT MET COUNCIL  
(By Eric Roper)

Rep. Jason Lewis objects to powerful regional board being nonelected.

The Metropolitan Council would be stripped of its authority to distribute millions of federal transportation dollars if a provision approved by the U.S. House of Representatives on Thursday becomes law.

The measure, sponsored by U.S. Rep. Jason Lewis, R-Minn., tackles long-simmering complaints about gubernatorial appointees, rather than elected officials, leading the powerful regional government.

The council's status as the Twin Cities' official transportation planning organization is grandfathered into federal law, which otherwise mandates that those boards must have local elected officials.

"We now have in the Minneapolis-St. Paul region the only board in the country that is entirely nonelected, the only [transportation planning organization] that has the authority to independently raise taxes and is nonelected," Lewis said during debate on his amendment, tacked onto the Federal Aviation Administration bill.

The measure's future is uncertain in the Senate, which has yet to vote on its own FAA reauthorization bill. In a letter to the state's congressional delegation Wednesday,

Gov. Mark Dayton, a DFLer, warned that the change would "circumvent a long-standing and productive process at a time when transportation investment is critical to our region."

Met Council Chair Alene Tchourumoff also criticized the proposal. "We cannot predict whether the region, and its many diverse interests, would be able to continue to find common ground on building a new [planning organization]," Tchourumoff said in a statement. "This uncertainty could paralyze our regional transportation planning and funding efforts, putting billions of dollars in federal funding at risk."

Lewis said the existing structure already breeds uncertainty.

"Uncertainty is a board that changes course every time there's a new election in the governor's mansion," Lewis said.

U.S. Rep. Rick Larsen, D-Wash., said Lewis' amendment "is attempting to break apart the operating structure of a local [planning organization] seemingly to punish it."

The Met Council's structure has been controversial since its creation in the 1960s. Republican state legislators are advancing bills to replace the board with elected officials. Dayton vetoed a similar effort last year.

The federal government requires metro areas to have a planning organization to coordinate and plan for how the region doles out federal transportation funds. The law says they must include local elected officials, except for those operating under a state law passed before 1991. A number of suburban counties hired a lobbyist in 2015 to argue that the Met Council was running afoul of those rules. They were rebuffed by federal transportation officials. In its decisions on which projects to fund, the council seeks recommendations from a transportation advisory board made up partly of local elected officials. But that board is not the designated planning organization for the Twin Cities.

#### IN MEMORY OF MARY ELEANOR WIGGINS BOWERS

#### HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 7, 2018*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, South Carolina last week paid tribute to the late Mary Eleanor Wiggins Bowers of Estill, South Carolina. She will always be cherished as a Southern Lady who lovingly served constituents at the U.S. House of Representatives Office in Estill.

The following thoughtful obituary was published in *The State* on May 4, 2018:

Mary Eleanor Wiggins Bowers died at home in Estill, surrounded by her adoring family after a long, rich, and wonderful life. Born March 20, 1931 in Estill, South Carolina to Robert Graham and Louise Folk Wiggins, she was the granddaughter of Thomas Jackson and May Smoak Folk and Robert Graham and Mary Crane Wiggins all of Estill.

Mary Eleanor finished Estill High School as valedictorian and attended Mercer University. She loved to jitterbug, once dancing holes in the soles of the shoes bought that day and always said she fell in love with her Corrin while "cuttin' a rug". She married "that cute Bowers boy" of Luray on August 27, 1949. She was the mother of Sharon B. Green (Roy), Mayor Corrin Fitts Bowers, Jr. (Sallie) both of Estill, Elizabeth B. Palles (Mitch), and Graham B. Solana (Mark) both

of Savannah. Grandsons include John Green (Deana) of Jacksonville, Corrin Green (Hanna) of Pawley's Island, Andrew Green (Elizabeth) of Aiken, Mitchell Palles III of Charlotte, Corrin Fitts Bowers III (Abigail) of Estill, Joseph Solana II, and Henry Solana of Savannah; three granddaughters, Mary Crane Palles Orne (David) of Savannah, Louisa Bowers Beach (Brandon) of Estill, and Mary Tippins Solana of Savannah; seven great grandsons, Patrick, William, and Thomas Green of Jacksonville, Corrin Green, Jr., and Samuel Green of Pawley's Island, Marshall Beach of Estill, and Charles Orne of Savannah, two great granddaughters, Sallie Sims Beach of Estill, and Eliza Green of Aiken. She often stated "My big family is the best thing ever!"

She loved the Lord and was a lifelong member of Lawtonville Baptist Church, sang in the choir, taught Sunday School, GAs, Sunbeams, Young Women's Association, and led Training Union for many years with Corrin. She served as W.M.U. president on two occasions, was a Circle leader, served on two pastor search committees, and was a charter member and chair of the Lawtonville Historical Society. For years, she collected children from around Luray to study the Bible on the family farm.

Mama Mama, as she was known to her grandchildren and many who loved her, could bring a room to life with her magnetic personality and gift of gab. Often drawing company with her encyclopedic knowledge of the area's rich history and genealogy, she welcomed all into her warm home with bird dog under foot and food on the stove. A visit with Mama Mama was always an adventure, as she might entertain by playing the piano by ear or put you to work on a flower cutting expedition, antique hunt, or tombstone search.

Mary Eleanor helped establish the Hampton County Historical Society, and was instrumental in saving both the Bull Durham building and Estill's first town hall. She loved Estill, and belonged to many clubs including Social Dozen (over 60 Years), Estill Music Club, was a founding member of Friendship Book Club and Monday Night Couples Bridge, and Thursday's big and little supper clubs.

A tireless civil servant, Mary Eleanor worked 30 years in the voting polls, Estill's first zoning board, the community relations committee for the federal prison, and was a member of the Estill election committee. Her penchant for politics gave her ample opportunity to educate people on what their platform "should be". She ran the U.S. Representative office in Estill from 1987 until 2003 for Arthur Ravenel, Jr., Floyd Spence, and Joe Wilson, maintaining her status as a staunch Democrat in a sea of beloved Republicans. She served on the Tricentennial book committee for Both Sides of the Swamp as well as assisted Coy Kelly Johnston in the book, *Two Centuries of Lawtonville Baptists*. During that time she indexed Lawtonville cemetery, scrubbing down gravestones along the way.

She was predeceased by her loving husband Corrin Fitts Bowers and her grandson, Graham Fontaine Solana. In addition to her children, she is survived by one brother, Robert Graham "Bro" Wiggins III (Vivienne) of Estill, one aunt, Barbara F. Callahan of Warrenton, N.C., chosen daughter Geraldine Brantley, four nieces, seven nephews, and special cousin, Thomas Folk (Jan), as well as eighteen grand nieces and nephews.

Funeral services will be 11 AM Saturday in the Lawtonville Baptist Church conducted by Rev. Jamie Norris and Rev. Noel Cooper with burial in the Lawtonville Cemetery in Estill, directed by Peeples-Rhoden Funeral Home.

Visitation will be Friday from 5 to 7 PM at the home located at 680 Wyman Blvd. in Es-till. A reception will be held at the home fol-lowing the service.

The family would like to thank her care-givers, Lottie Garvin and Roger Bryant for their faithful service.

IN HONOR OF THE 20TH ANNIVER-SARY OF THE LIFE WITH CAN-CER LOBSTER EXTRAVAGANZA

**HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 7, 2018*

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor philanthropic and community leaders Carolyn and Milt Peterson, and their children, Lauren Peterson, William "Rick" Peterson, Jon Peterson and Steven Peterson of Fairfax, Virginia. This past Saturday, we celebrated the 20th Anniversary of the Life with Cancer Annual Lobster Extravaganza, which is an annual fundraising event supporting the nonprofit organization, Life with Cancer.

Life with Cancer is a community support and education program for cancer patients and their families, offering creative, physical, and social outlets that improve quality of life for all those affected by cancer. Life With Cancer's mission is to help those affected by cancer.

I especially would like to recognize Carolyn Peterson, the Chair Emeritus of the Life With Cancer. Through knowing Carolyn's story as a cancer survivor, we discover her love for life that can help each of us live a richer, more hope and love-filled life.

With her strength and perseverance as a cancer survivor, Carolyn and her husband, Milt have opened their home for this annual fundraiser that celebrates joy of friendship and togetherness amidst a cancer diagnosis. I would like to personally commend Carolyn and Milt who inspire others through their dedication and generosity in service to their neighbors, friends, and even those they do not know. The Extravaganza is such a unique event, every year including a New England lobster bake dinner, live and silent auctions, and dancing, all to benefit thousands of individuals. I very much enjoyed the friendship shared this past weekend.

Carolyn, Milt and the entire Peterson family are friends to so many throughout our community. Through their love for each other, they have shared their love for service.

This year, Carolyn and Milt Peterson celebrate the milestone of 60 wonderful years of marriage, turned into an amazing journey of service, positively influencing the lives of countless members of our community. I thank them for their work and I celebrate this year of many achievements, deserving of recognition from the U.S. House of Representatives.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize Carolyn and Milt Peterson and I sincerely hope that we all can live up to their tremendous example.

HONORING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF NICOLE ANN CLARK

**HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 7, 2018*

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Nicole Ann Clark for her strength and perseverance as a breast cancer survivor, as well as the dedication she has displayed by continuing to aid in the fight against breast cancer.

She is a testament to the fact that hope exists for all cancer patients and their loved ones. Nicole's doctor found a tumor during a routine breast exam a little over five years ago. This was the beginning of a tough journey for her and her husband, guided by faith and support from family and friends.

With the recent news of a local breast cancer walk discontinuing, Nicole wanted to start an event to help women with Breast Cancer and give women a reason for continuing to exercise and stay healthy. Thus emerged Walk 4 Mountains, an inaugural event to give peace and comfort to women.

Walk 4 Mountains was held this past Saturday, May 5, 2018, with all proceeds benefiting the Loudoun Breast Health Network, Step Sister's and the Local Chapter of the American Cancer Society which will help to pay bills and take care of everyday activities for women diagnosed with breast cancer.

I sincerely thank her for her efforts in this fight. She is an inspiration to men and women everywhere, and her actions are truly honorable. With the establishment of this event, Ms. Clark's achievements and leadership will continue to strengthen the fight against breast cancer now and in the future.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing Ms. Nicole Clark's loyal and dedicated service in spreading awareness and funding for the fight against breast cancer. On behalf of Virginia's 10th District, I wish Ms. Nicole Clark all the best in her future endeavors.

IN RECOGNITION OF GREG KING AND THE ARIZONA MEDICAL EYE UNIT

**HON. KYRSTEN SINEMA**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 7, 2018*

Ms. SINEMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Greg King and the Arizona Medical Eye Unit. The Arizona Medical Eye Unit (AMEU) was established in 1976 to deliver free, high quality medical eye care to underserved and rural communities across Arizona that have little to no access to eye care professionals. Ophthalmologists in Arizona volunteer to staff the clinic and give back to the local community. The AMEU works with community health centers, local schools, rural hospitals, elderly homes, and tribal communities throughout Arizona to reduce the burden of eye disease and improve quality of life throughout Arizona.

Mr. King has served as the Director of the AMEU since 1978. He dedicated his career to ensuring all Arizonans have access to eye care and he travelled to nearly every corner of

our great state to achieve his goals. In the process, he developed unique knowledge of the eye-care needs of communities all over Arizona. By leading by example and inspiring others to give back, he always has a trained professional willing to staff the AMEU and provide services. Mr. King has been essential to the success of the program and changed the lives of countless Arizonans.

I thank Mr. King for his years of dedicated service and the AMEU team that works to serve Arizonans across the state.

IN HONOR OF NATIONAL NURSING HOME WEEK 2018

**HON. MIKE ROGERS**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 7, 2018*

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I ask for the House's attention to recognize the National Skilled Nursing Week, formerly known as National Nursing Home Week, May 13–19, and recognize our Veterans at the Central Alabama Veterans Health Care System (CAVHCS).

The American Health Care Association established the National Nursing Home Week in 1967 and this year's theme is "Celebrating Life's Stories." Each nursing home center will collect stories on each individuals' personal story.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing this special week and thanking all of our Veterans in Alabama.

IN HONOR OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF WEST POINT BAPTIST CHURCH IN JACKSONVILLE, ALABAMA

**HON. MIKE ROGERS**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 7, 2018*

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th anniversary of the founding of West Point Baptist Church located in Jacksonville, Alabama.

The church was founded on May 19, 1918, by 21 men and women. They first held their services in the West Point School building. When the school abandoned this structure in 1931, the congregation bought and remodeled it. This building was used until 1967 when they constructed a new red brick veneer structure on that site. The red brick building was enlarged and adapted to meet the need of a growing church family.

Sadly, this building was totally destroyed by a tornado on March 19, 2018. Although the building can no longer be used for worship, the church family continues to grow in spirit and increase in numbers.

The current pastor, Reverend Ronny J. Moore has served at West Point Baptist since March of 2011.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating the congregation of West Point Baptist Church on the 100th Anniversary.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4,